Ganga river (main stem) under GAP Phase-II is Rs. 564 crore against which an amount of Rs. 1373.58 crore has been released to the State Implementing Agencies. Out of a total of 311 schemes sanctioned, 185 schemes have been completed so far and the balance schemes are in different stages of implementation.

With the completion of the pollution abatement works under GAP Phase-I and II, notwithstanding the phenomenal increase in the urban population leading to substantial increase in the pollution load of the river Ganga over the past year, water quality of Ganga has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The BOD values in the year 2008 range between 1.2 to 4.8 mg./litre in major monitoring locations as compared to BOD values ranging between 1.7 to 15.5 mg./litre in 1986. This is as per the water quality monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions like the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and Indian Toxicological Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow.

The Government has initiated an exercise for revamping the Ganga Action Plan with a view to promoting a holistic and integrated approach.

Pollution control guidelines

1130. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the instance of flouting of the pollution control guidelines in granting approval for expansion of a particular distillery unit, namely M/s N.V. Distilleries, near Ambala;

(b) if so, response, if any, of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) had accorded its approval for the expansion of the distillery;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for Government granting approval ignoring the HSPCB objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The expansion of distillery unit of M/s N.V. Distilleries, near Ambala in Haryana has been accorded environmental clearance under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.

(c) and (d) As per the information provided by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), the HSPCB has not given approval for expansion of the distillery unit.

(e) As per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, clearances from other regulatory bodies or authorities are not required prior to receipt of applications for prior environmental clearance.